

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/3588

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**Application:** 191721/DPP & 191720/LBC

**Site:** The Music Hall Union Street Aberdeen AB10 1QS

**Proposal:** Proposed stone cleaning of granite facades on North, East and West elevations

## **Remit:**

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

## **Comment:**

This application has come to the attention of the Trust as it involves development at the Music Hall. The Trust was not formally notified despite this falling within our role as a statutory consultee.

The Music Hall is a Category A listed heritage and cultural asset, with a varied artistic programme as well as hosting other events and functions. It was originally constructed in 1820 in a new-classical style with the main hall added around forty years later. It recently carried out a programme of renovation and improvement.

This proposal is seeking planning permission and listed building consent to carry out cleaning of the building's external stonework. The applicant has provided a thorough assessment of the

## **Theatres Trust**

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

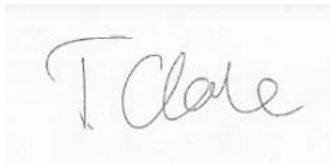
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

condition of the building's stonework, which includes some discolouration from accumulation of dirt and pollutants, water runoff and some biological staining and vegetation growth. The applicant has engaged the advice of specialist contractors with experience of working with materials of this nature, and the appraisal report states that trials will be carried out.

The Trust has commented on a few proposals of this nature recently, for example at the Noel Coward Theatre in London and Richmond Theatre. We are supportive of such works, as they help maintain the building and remove accumulations of materials and substances which over time could harm the fabric of the building as well as improving the visual appearance of the building. It is important that reputable contractors with relevant experience are engaged for these works, and on that basis we agree with the Music Hall's approach. We suggest this is made a condition of permission.

In conclusion **we recommend the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "T" is large and the "Clarke" is written in a flowing script.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser